

# **California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**

## **Partnership Board Meeting**

**Thursday, September 14, 2006**

**10:00 AM – 6:00 PM**

**Friday, September 15, 2006**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**California State University Bakersfield**

**Icardo Center**

**9001 Stockdale Highway**

**Bakersfield, California 93301**

### **– Summary of Meeting Proceedings –**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak welcomed attendees and called the meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to order at the California State University, Bakersfield Icardo Center at 10:23 AM. She gave a general overview of the meeting agenda. Deputy Chairs Fritz Grupe and Supervisor Connie Conway gave welcome remarks.

Self introductions of all those attending followed.

Secretary McPeak introduced Dr. Horace Mitchell, President of California State University, Bakersfield. Dr. Mitchell welcomed members of the Partnership to the campus. He remarked about the importance of the work of the Partnership and its goal of excellence. Copies of the California State University Bakersfield Annual Report were distributed. Dr. Mitchell was excused and left the meeting shortly after his remarks concluded.

Secretary McPeak noted that this is the first anniversary of the Partnership, and thanked those staffing the Partnership for their work. The next step is implementation. She reviewed the agenda for the next two days. The overall goal of the meeting was to approve the Draft Strategic Action Proposal for release for public comment. Belen Torres distributed a document containing suggested amendments. Partnership members were asked to review the document prior to Friday's portion of the meeting.

The Partnership dinner sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government would be held that evening at the Petroleum Club in Bakersfield. Details on time and location were provided in a handout.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 27 and 28 meeting in Madera and the July 28 meeting with County Administrative Officers and City Managers. Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus.

## **II. Work Group Reports**

A spokesperson for each Work Group gave a brief update on activities and reported any changes to be made in the Strategic Action Proposal for that Work Group.

### K – 12 Education Work Group

John Madrid reported on behalf of Convener Mayor Alan Autry.

The K-12 Education Work Group continued its outreach to County Superintendents of Schools by holding a meeting at which they participated in the final report. There was basic agreement on all issues except the alternative education proposal. Six of the 8 County Superintendents reviewed the proposal and communication with stakeholders. Stakeholders include the Superintendents Association, California Teachers Association, Parent Teachers Association and others.

Language in the proposal relating to accountability systems has been changed to say “meet and exceed existing measures” and “alternative education” is now titled “school governance.” It was the consensus that even though the legislation by Assemblyman Arambula endorsed by the Partnership failed passage, the Superintendents thought that it should be reintroduced and pursued again at a later date.

### Transportation Work Group

Convener Ray Dezember reported.

The Transportation Work Group report has been submitted to the Partnership and is based in part on five studies that have been done over the past few years on Highway 99 and its contributory roads. Carolyn Lott noted that the language relating to airports was mistakenly deleted and will be put back into the Transportation report.

### Advanced Communications Services and Information Technology Work Group

Convener Ray Dezember reported.

The Telecommunication Work Group was pleased to announce that the Pixley project has begun and will be a pilot telecommunications project for the entire Valley.

### Land Use, Agriculture and Housing Work Group

Carol Whiteside reported on behalf of Convener Victor Mow.

Representatives of agriculture have participated in Work Group meetings and activities; members of environmental organizations have not. The discussion going forward will be through the Regional Blueprint process with the eight county Councils of Government.

### Air Quality Work Group

Pete Weber reported on behalf of Convener Sue Benham.

Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak paused the Work Group reports and introduced Assemblywoman Nicole Parra who arrived at the meeting. Assemblywoman Parra addressed the Partnership on items of legislation that she had introduced. One measure of particular interest is AB 31 which would put the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley into statute and designate how its members should be appointed. The bill failed passage but Assemblywoman Parra intends to reintroduce it next year. She stated that she thought legislation is the best way to assure continuing of effort and funding beyond the 2006-2007 State Budget.

#### Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group

Convener Paul Boyer and Jim Tischer reported.

Paul Boyer spoke briefly on behalf of the Work Group and introduced Jim Tischer to augment his report. Mr. Tischer reported that the Work Group is working with federal officials on the federal settlement. Comments have been received from the Department of Water Resources and the California Energy Commission on Work Group recommended components to the strategic action plan. He noted that at the meeting in Madera it was decided that Energy be treated as the tenth Work Group.

#### Energy Work Group

Jim Tischer reported on behalf of Convener Paul Boyer.

The Energy Work Group is focusing on the energy used to pump and delivery water because it uses 20% of the energy in the state. Consideration of the issue of energy in this way is a new policy approach for the State of California.

#### Health and Human Services Work Group

Convener Fritz Grupe and Trina Gonzalez reported.

The County Health and Welfare Directors recommended no changes to the action steps so the Work Group proposal will remain substantially the same.

#### Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group

Convener Jeff Grover reported.

The Work Group is on target. There are no material changes in the report presented to the Partnership at the July meeting.

Secretary McPeak reminded each Work Group convener that Work Group participants must agree to be listed, and announced that the Work Group reports would be posted on-line at the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Website.

At this time Toni Symonds of Assemblyman Arambula's Office and Cynthia Leon from Assemblywoman Parra's office joined the meeting and were acknowledged.

### **III. Review of Draft Strategic Action Proposal**

Deputy Chairs Supervisor Connie Conway and Fritz Grupe made introductory remarks. They commented on how thrilled and impressed they are with the amount of work the Partnership has accomplished to date and urged members to continue the momentum going forward.

Secretary McPeak gave an overview of how the Strategic Action Proposal will be published. She outlined the contents of the report and appendices. She requested that each Partnership member provide a quote that can be used in the publication and a signature that can be scanned as well. Index cards were distributed.

Carol Whiteside distributed an updated draft of the Strategic Action Proposal Section III Overview and Background (which includes vision and indicators components) and asked for comments. Questions and discussion followed.

Following the discussion the Partnership recessed for lunch. At that time, Darrell Hildebrand of the Kern County Council of Governments invited Partnership members to dinner event and evening meeting to be held at the Petroleum Club. The dinner was sponsored by the Kern Council of Governments, Chevron, Smart Growth Coalition, Tejon Ranch, Oxy and Granite Construction.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Supervisor Connie Conway chaired the public comment section. Ron Silva, of Weststar Transport, spoke on the subject of short sea shipping and distributed a hand out. Josh Franco of UC Merced spoke about progress involving young people in the process.

#### **V. Continue Review of Draft Strategic Action Proposal**

Carol Whiteside summarized the principal recommendations in the Strategic Action Proposal. It was noted that throughout the Strategic Action Proposal the term metrics and indicators were used interchangeably. The Board reviewed each Work Group's recommendation. Following discussion about metrics and indicators, it was decided that the term "indicators" would be used throughout the Proposal. The following suggestions relating to specific Work Groups were made:

##### Economic Development Work Group

Business sustainability should be used instead of business start-ups because it is a better measure of business stability.

##### Transportation Work Group

The information on airports was inadvertently omitted and will be re-inserted. Vehicle hours of delay should be added to the transportation indicators.

##### Land Use, Agriculture and Housing Work Group

It was suggested that the indicator on agricultural lands be termed important rather than prime or significant. Both prime and significant are components of important and using important is a broader indicator.

##### Health and Human Services Work Group

The concerns and issues relating to law enforcement should be included.

#### Energy Work Group

Jim Tischer provided a hand-out on water related projects currently underway in the San Joaquin Valley. Discussion took place about recombining the Energy Work Group back into the Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group because the only energy issues being considered by the Energy Work Group were those related to moving water.

#### K-12 Education Work Group

The average regional attainment rate was proposed as an indicator.

#### Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group

It was suggested that recycling be added as a water indicator. Discussion centered on current water projects and the large number of systems not in compliance with at least one water quality standard.

Those Work Groups not listed reported no recommendations for change.

#### Funding Requirements and Sources

Pete Weber reviewed Section VII of the Draft Strategic Action Proposal regarding Funding and Financing.. It shows where there is government funding available but all persons and organizations who are eligible to receive this funding did not apply. Partnership members discussed how best to obtain funding from currently available sources.

### **VI. Recommended Organizational Structure for Implementation**

Secretary McPeak reviewed with proposed organizational structure as presented in Section VI of the Draft Strategic Action Proposal. A discussion about whether there should be a distinction between voting or non-voting members followed. It was the consensus of the Board that all members, including representatives of consortia of existing organizations, should be voting members.

It was noted that the proposal states that Chair and Deputy Chairs could be appointed by either the members of the Partnership or by the Governor directly. Cabinet members expressed a preference for the Chair to be someone from the San Joaquin Valley. It was the consensus of the group that the Governor designate the Chair and two Deputy Chairs from among his appointments and that the Cabinet members representing the various state agencies remain among the appointees. Further discussion of membership, including how the consortia should be qualified and approved followed.

### **VII. Approval of Draft Strategic Action Plan for Release for Public Comment**

Final action on the Draft Strategic Action Plan was deferred to September 15.

### **VIII. Outreach and Communications Plan**

Discussion of the Outreach and Communications Plan was deferred to September 15.

## **IX. Update from Designated Liaisons**

Pete Weber reported on behalf of the Federal Interagency Task Force. The Federal Task Force plans to meet in Fresno on September 18.

Barry Hibbard reported for the Economic Strategy Panel. He noted that the California Food Processing Chain Report is scheduled for release in the near future. The next meeting of the Economic Strategy Panel will be November 2.

At the conclusion of the Designated Liaison reports the meeting recessed until September 15 at 9:00 AM.

## **X. Convene Meeting and Introductory Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak at 9:21 AM.

After a brief discussion initiated by the Chair it was decided by consensus that one San Joaquin Valley Legislator representing each house and each party, for a total of four, should become non-voting members of the Partnership. The leaders of each house should determine which members will represent the Legislature on the Partnership.

Secretary McPeak reminded Partnership members of the need to turn in their quotes which will be included in the Strategic Action Proposal. Blank paper for members' signatures were distributed and members asked to sign and return.

## **XI. Items not Covered or Completed on September 14**

### Outreach and Communications Plan (Item IX from the September 14 Agenda)

Belen Torres distributed a compilation of dates that Partnership members had scheduled for outreach and communications meetings. Additional outreach and communication opportunities were discussed. It was suggested that every jurisdiction be contacted in an official way and asked to support the concept of the Partnership. The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency will provide support materials for Board members to use as talking points in making presentations.

The San Joaquin County Councils of Government are scheduled to meet in Bakersfield on October 5 and 6. Secretary McPeak requested that the Partnership be placed on the agenda and that the appropriate local representatives attend. Each Partnership Board member was asked to report on their individual outreach efforts.

### Approval of Draft Strategic Action Plan for Release for Public Comment (Item VIII from the September 14 Agenda)

Secretary McPeak explained the time-line for presenting the Strategic Action Plan to the Governor. It would be released for public comment with final comments to be accepted at the October meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to release the Draft Strategic Action Plan for public comment.

## **XII. Process / Request for Proposals for Secretariat / Staffing and Seed Grants**

As Belen Torres distributed the attached outline regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Secretariat / Staffing and Seed Grants, Secretary McPeak gave a brief description of the framework for the RFPs. The \$5 million appropriated for the Partnership was divided equally between the Secretariat / Staffing functions and Seed Grants authorized by the Partnership board in two cycles. Discussion of the RFP process and the successor organization responsibilities followed. The Board approved unanimously by consensus the outline and the establishment of an ad hoc advisory committee to oversee the RFP process. Subsequently, the Board approved by written consultation an ad hoc advisory committee consisting of eleven Board members: Chair, 2 Deputy Chairs, 2 additional Cabinet Secretaries, and 6 additional Board members (one each from counties not represented by the Deputy Chairs).

### Annual Report Outline

The annual report outline was distributed. Carol Whiteside gave an overview of the annual report. The RFP appropriation provides for two annual reports over the course of 2.5 years of funding. The Board approved unanimously by consensus the annual report outline conceptually, allowing for modifications by the future Board.

## **XIII. Editor for Strategic Action Proposal**

Secretary McPeak noted that a mock up of the Strategic Action Proposal will be available for board review at the October meeting. It is planned to go to the printer on Monday, October 30th.

## **XIV. Next Meeting**

Ashley Swearingin reported on plans for the next meeting. It will be held at the Smittcamp House at CSU Fresno with a dinner at President Welty's home on Thursday evening.

## **XV. Other Business**

Toni Symonds was introduced. She provided a handout and gave the Partnership members an update on the status of Assemblyman Arambula's legislation.

## **XVI. Adjourn**

Secretary McPeak thanked CSU Bakersfield for its hospitality in hosting the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

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-- Attendance --

## Local Elected Officials

Susan Benham, Councilwoman, City of Bakersfield  
Marcelyn Buford, Councilwoman, City of Hanford  
Connie Conway, Supervisor, Tulare County  
Gary Gilbert, Supervisor, Madera County

## Civic Leaders

Sheila Carroll, Ross F. Carroll, Inc. Modesto  
Ray Dezember, Bakersfield  
Fritz Grupe, The Grupe Company, Stockton  
Fred Ruiz, Ruiz Foods, Dinuba  
Lorraine Salazar, Sal's Mexican Restaurants, Fresno  
Sharron Thornton, The Grass is Greener Landscape Management, Merced

## Cabinet Secretaries

Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary, Labor and Workforce Development Agency  
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency  
Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

## Cabinet Designees

Jay Chamberlain, California Resources Agency  
Trina Gonzalez, California Health & Human Services Agency  
Cindy Tuck, California Environmental Protection Agency  
A. J. Yates, Department of Food & Agriculture

## **Designated Officials**

## Appointed Liaisons

Pete Parra, Liaison to the Workforce Investment Board  
Barbara Patrick, Supervisor, Kern County, Liaison to the Air Resources Board  
Pete Weber, ANRON International, Fresno, Liaison to the Federal Interagency Task Force



## **Other Key Partners**

### Supporting Agencies

Heidi Arno, Great Valley Center  
Mariana Cordova, Great Valley Center  
Jonnalee Henderson, Department of Food & Agriculture  
Mark Keppler, California State University Fresno  
Carolyn Lott, Great Valley Center  
Mike Lynch, Great Valley Center  
Ann Marquez, California State University Fresno  
Ashley Swearengin, California State University Fresno  
Belen Torres, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
Carol Whiteside, Great Valley Center  
Jim Tischer, California State University Fresno

### Other Guests

Rob Balley, Kern Council of Governments  
Melissa Brithwite  
Kyle Loretto, representing Mayor Alan Autry of Fresno  
Michael Lukens, representing Congressman George Radanovich  
John Madrid, representing Mayor Alan Autry of Fresno  
Horace Mitchell, President of CSUB  
Robert Mitchell, CSUB AV  
Ted Smalley, Tulare County Association of Governments  
Rollie Smith, HUD and the Federal Interagency Task Force  
John Thomas CSUB AV  
Sheryl Tutt  
Mindy Wilmont